

35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8 AND 12-17

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 12-17 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. In claim 8, part (i), the word "about" has been removed as it relates to the hydrocarbon chain for R₁, and in part (iii) of claim 8 "C₁-C₃ alkyl" has been corrected to read as "C₁-C₃ alkyl." Additionally, a comma was added in part (iii) of claim 8 between "C₆-C₁₀-bicycloalkyl" and "C₃-C₇-cycloalkylmethyl."

With respect to the Examiner's concern regarding claims 8 and 17, the Examiner is correct in his understanding that the mentioned groups keto, sulfoxide or sulfone are bonded to any compatible group element or elements in addition to being bound to a carbon of the ring structure.

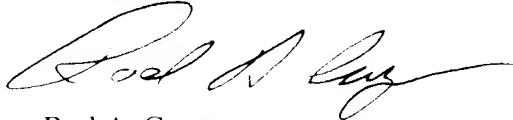
With respect to claims 13-16, the phrase "Z' and R' cannot form a ring" has been deleted.

As a result of the amendments to claims 8 and 12-17, Applicants have addressed the Examiner's rejections under §112. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request favorable action.

CONCLUSION

For reasons delineated above, Applicants respectfully request the consideration of all pending claims, and favorable action on the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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